

the process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3069.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support, H.R. 3069, the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Extension Act of 1977. This bill, introduced by GEORGE MILLER, the Senior Democrat on the Resources Committee, extends the life of the Advisory Council for an additional two years. The Advisory Council was created by legislation sponsored by Congressman MILLER in the 102nd Congress.

The Council was created to specifically provide Congress with a report setting forth recommendations for remedial measures to address the special problems facing California Indians and Indian tribes. California Indians have long suffered the effects of broken treaties and the ill-conceived policy of termination and are struggling to find ways to improve education, health care, economic development, and housing needs.

Many of these problems are not solvable overnight. They will require cooperation and understanding from the federal government, the state, and between the tribes themselves. To this end, Congress created the Advisory Council in 1992 to help Congress sort through the complex web of problems unique to California Indians. The Council fulfilled its task in 1997 and provided us with its report and recommendations. These recommendations deal with land consolidation, restoration of tribes, provision of health, education, and social services, and responsibility to urban Indians.

Because the Council has acquired considerable expertise on these issues in the past four years, the bill extends its existence an additional two years so that the Council will be able to guide Congress in the implementation of the report's recommendations.

This makes good sense. We should avail ourselves of the Council's great knowledge that it has accumulated over the past six years. Their expertise should prove of invaluable assistance in helping us draft legislation to carry forward the recommendations contained in their report. They have lived up to their end of the bargain. Now it's time for us to live up to ours.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not give special recognition to our Democratic committee staff for their hard work and professionalism in the development of this legislation as it was authored by our senior ranking Democrat, the gentleman from California Mr. MILLER. I want to thank our minority staff counsel Mr. Chris Stearns for the excellent work he has done on this bill, and also Ms. Jessica Rae Alcorn. Both native Americans. Mr. Stearns is a member of the Navajo Nation and a graduate of Cornell University Law School; Ms. Alcorn is a member of the Assiniboine Sioux Nation, a graduate of Brigham Young University Campus in Hawaii and plans to attend law school this fall.

Mr. Speaker, as I have always said to my colleagues in the years past and even now—the salvation of Native American tribes throughout American lies in education. Mr.

Stearns and Ms. Alcorn are the finest examples of the young and upcoming generation of the Native Americans who I am confident will contribute significantly to the needs of Native Americans throughout America, and to the needs of our nation.

Again I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership and foresight for activation of this Advisory Council that is sorely needed to address the needs of some 100 native American tribes that reside in California.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have brought this bill to the floor today. My bill extends by 2 years the life of the California Advisory Council on Indian Policy, which was created by legislation back in the 102nd Congress. The bill was unanimously reported out of the full Committee on Resources.

The Council was created to provide us with a report recommending remedial measures to address the special problems facing California Indians and Indian tribes. The problems include the need to restore California's terminated tribes' lost lands, and to provide tools for economic self-sufficiency, and improve health and educational needs.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the remainder of my statement for the RECORD, but I want to thank the chairman of the committee for giving the attention of this committee to this legislation; and I also want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his attention to this matter.

The Council has now submitted its report. Along the way it picked up an inordinate amount of expertise on these issues and my bill would give the Council the chance to share its invaluable knowledge with Congress and other parties as we move forward to the implementation phase.

Thus, my bill directs the Council to consult and work with Congress, the Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services, the California Indian tribes, and the State in expediting the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Council's 1997 report.

This is an important measure. There are over one-hundred tribes in California. Over the course of history, those tribes lost over eighteen million acres as a result of eighteen broken treaties. California Indians own less land, have less money and funding, and less access to health care and education than tribes in other states. California also has the highest urban Indian population of any state. Yet the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs provides services to only one-sixth of the Indian population. California is also one of a handful of states that was allowed to extend state jurisdiction on Indian lands. In the 1950s, thirty-eight tribes were terminated. Fortunately, twenty-seven have been restored.

Six years ago, I spoke on the floor about the original legislation that created the Council and authorized the report. I said that "this report will provide a blueprint for the future of California Indians. We will use the rec-

ommendations of the council as we approach California Indian policy in the 1990s and on into the next century." That time has come.

And that is why I believe it is important to continue to rely on the guidance and wisdom of the Council as we review its recommendations and fashion legislation that will allow us to keep many of the promises we have made to the state's first citizens. I look forward to a new era of relations with the California tribes and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. GIBBONS, and I rise in opposition to H.R. 3069, the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Extension Act. This legislation would extend the Advisory Council until 2000 and encourage the Council to work with Congress and federal agencies to implement the proposals of its 1997 report. Although we understand the need for Native Americans of California to improve Indian health services, education and housing programs, we strongly disagree with some of the provisions included in the Advisory Council's initial report.

The Council suggests amendments to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and action by the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate Indian gaming operations and circumvent local and federal regulations in California. The track record of Indian gaming operations in California has been far from pristine. To encourage even less regulation and a decreased role of local governments would not be prudent.

We believe that providing additional federal funding to this Council, whose legislative recommendations include a lessening of oversight and local involvement, is bad fiscal policy and poor domestic policy.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3069.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3796) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the administrative site for the Rogue River National Forest and use the proceeds for the construction or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Rogue River National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3796

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### SEC. 2. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary

may prescribe, may sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Rogue River National Forest administrative site depicted on the map entitled "Rogue River Administrative Conveyance" dated April 23, 1998, consisting of approximately 5.1 acres.

(b) **EXCHANGE ACQUISITIONS.**—The Secretary may provide for the construction of administrative facilities in exchange for a conveyance of the administrative site under subsection (a).

(c) **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of an administrative site shall be subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for National Forest System purposes.

(d) **CASH EQUALIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of an administrative site in an exchange under subsection (a).

(e) **SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.**—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary may—

(1) use solicitations of offers for sale or exchange on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(2) reject any offer if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

### SEC. 3. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

The proceeds of a sale or exchange under section 2 shall be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a) (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") and shall be available, until expended, for the construction or improvement of offices and support buildings for combined use by the Forest Service for the Rogue River National Forest, and by the Bureau of Land Management.

### SEC. 4. REVOCATIONS.

(a) **PUBLIC LAND ORDERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, to facilitate the sale or exchange of the administrative site, public land orders withdrawing the administrative site from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws are revoked for any portion of the administrative site, upon conveyance of that portion by the Secretary.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The effective date of a revocation made by this section shall be the date of the patent or deed conveying the administrative site (or portion thereof).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SMITH of Oregon asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple, straightforward piece of legislation. It exchanges 5.1 acres of the Rogue River National Forest maintenance facility in Medford for an opportunity to collocate offices of Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

It is obvious that this collocation is in good order since both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management support this legislation. In effect, it will save \$2.1 million per year as a result of the collocation.

Mr. Speaker, it came forward to us unanimously from committee.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the House Resources Committee for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

H.R. 3796 provides an excellent example of how two federal agencies can work together to better serve the needs of the public. This legislation will allow the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange the 5.1 acre Rogue River National Forest maintenance facility in Medford, Oregon and use the proceeds to expand the BLM office so that the Forest Service and the BLM can collocate.

For those of you who have not visited the Second District of Oregon, it may surprise you to know that well over half of the land in this large district is owned by the federal government. Public lands issues are extremely important to the people of my district. The people of the Second Congressional District work, live and recreate on this federal land and will greatly benefit from the ability to address their public lands needs in one central location. Currently, the local Forest Service and the BLM offices in Medford are located across town from one another. H.R. 3796 will allow these two agencies to collocate and provide more efficient service to the general public.

The site this legislation seeks to convey is the McAndrews Service Center. This facility is currently being used as an automotive shop, survey crew headquarters, road maintenance office and forest-wide support warehouse. This facility will become surplus to the Forest Service's needs should the two agencies collocate.

Conveyance of this site will allow for improvements to the joint Forest Service/BLM site that will include the addition of 20,000 square feet of office and conference space, remodeling of the current BLM office so that it fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and allow for a 5,300 square foot addition to the existing warehouse.

H.R. 3796 has the support of the Forest Service and the BLM and was drafted in response to the requests of local agency representatives looking to improve service to the public. The General Services Administration has also been a participant in discussions relating to collocation efforts and supports this proposal. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the enactment of H.R. 3796 will result in outlay savings of \$2 million in FY 1999, and will have no net effect on federal spending over the FY 1999–2003 period.

So in closing, I would again like to thank my colleagues on the House Resources Committee for bringing this legislation to the floor today, and encourage my friends here in the House to support this cost-effective and sensible example of government agencies working together.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), my good friend.

The bill would authorize the U.S. Forest Service to sell its headquarters in Medford, Oregon, and dedicate the

proceeds to expansion of offices currently occupied by the Bureau of Land Management. The expanded offices will provide a new home for the Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, given the land management challenges facing both of these agencies, it makes sense to encourage coordination by having them located in joint offices. The Forest Service has requested the authority set in this bill and supports its enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman from Oregon for his sponsorship of this bill and for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. My good friend also serves as the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and as a senior member of this committee as well.

I also want to thank the ranking member of our subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHAY), for his assistance in development of this bill; and our professional staff counsel, Mr. Jeff Petrich, for his professional contributions in the development of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank my friend very much for his positive statement and his assistance on this important piece of legislation.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to recognize Representative BOB SMITH for the excellent work he put forth in the development of this bill. H.R. 3796 is a straight-forward bill that provides for the conveyance of a work center on the Rogue River National Forest in exchange for facility improvements at the Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in order to facilitate collocation of the two offices.

The McAndrews Service Center is currently owned and operated by the Rogue River National Forest. The fair market compensation received through the sale or exchange of this center would be authorized to be used for the construction or improvement of offices that the Rogue River National Forest will share with the Medford District Office of the BLM. This would be done in a manner consistent with all applicable laws.

The Forest Service and the BLM in Medford have been working cooperatively for many years. This cooperative relationship has resulted in improved customer service and consolidation of office space will provide further efficiencies and improvements in public service.

This excellent bill is a bipartisan effort and has the support of the Administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3796.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3796.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the two bills just passed, H.R. 3069 and H.R. 3796.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

#### NATIONAL DROUGHT POLICY ACT OF 1998

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3035) to establish an advisory commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3035

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Drought Policy Act of 1998".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the United States often suffers serious economic and environmental losses from severe regional droughts and there is no coordinated Federal strategy to respond to such emergencies;

(2) at the Federal level, even though historically there have been frequent, significant droughts of national consequences, drought is addressed mainly through special legislation and ad hoc action rather than through a systematic and permanent process as occurs with other natural disasters;

(3) there is an increasing need, particularly at the Federal level, to emphasize preparedness, mitigation, and risk management (rather than simply crisis management) when addressing drought and other natural disasters or emergencies;

(4) several Federal agencies have a role in drought from predicting, forecasting, and monitoring of drought conditions to the provision of planning, technical, and financial assistance;

(5) there is no single Federal agency in a lead or coordinating role with regard to drought;

(6) State, local, and tribal governments have had to deal individually and separately with each Federal agency involved in drought assistance; and

(7) the President should appoint an advisory commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for, mitigate the impacts of, respond to, and recover from serious drought emergencies.

##### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the National Drought Policy Commission (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 16 members. The members of the Commission shall include—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the designee of the Secretary, who shall chair the Commission;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, or the designee of the Secretary;

(C) the Secretary of the Army, or the designee of the Secretary;

(D) the Secretary of Commerce, or the designee of the Secretary;

(E) the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the designee of the Director;

(F) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or the designee of the Administrator;

(G) two persons nominated by the National Governors' Association and appointed by the President, of whom—

(i) one shall be the governor of a State east of the Mississippi River; and

(ii) one shall be a governor of a State west of the Mississippi River;

(H) a person nominated by the National Association of Counties and appointed by the President;

(I) a person nominated by the United States Conference of Mayors and appointed by the President; and

(J) six persons, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army, who shall be representative of groups acutely affected by drought emergencies, such as the agricultural production community, the credit community, rural and urban water associations, Native Americans, and fishing and environmental interests.

(2) DATE.—The appointments of the members of the Commission shall be made no later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) INITIAL MEETING.—No later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the chair.

(f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(g) VICE CHAIR.—The Commission shall select a vice chair from among the members who are not Federal officers or employees.

##### SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Commission shall conduct a thorough study and submit a report on national drought policy in accordance with this section.

(b) CONTENT OF STUDY AND REPORT.—In conducting the study and report, the Commission shall—

(1) determine, in consultation with the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, and other appropriate entities, what needs exist on the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels to prepare for and respond to drought emergencies;

(2) review all existing Federal laws and programs relating to drought;

(3) review State, local, and tribal laws and programs relating to drought that the Commission finds pertinent;

(4) determine what differences exist between the needs of those affected by drought and the Federal laws and programs designed to mitigate the impacts of and respond to drought;

(5) collaborate with the Western Drought Coordination Council and other appropriate entities in order to consider regional drought initiatives and the application of such initiatives at the national level;

(6) make recommendations on how Federal drought laws and programs can be better integrated with ongoing State, local, and tribal programs into a comprehensive national policy to

mitigate the impacts of and respond to drought emergencies without diminishing the rights of States to control water through State law and considering the need for protection of the environment;

(7) make recommendations on improving public awareness of the need for drought mitigation, prevention, and response and on developing a coordinated approach to drought mitigation, prevention, and response by governmental and nongovernmental entities, including academic, private, and nonprofit interests; and

(8) include a recommendation on whether all Federal drought preparation and response programs should be consolidated under one existing Federal agency and, if so, identify such agency.

(c) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit a report to the President and Congress which shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL OF REPORT.—Before submission of the report, the contents of the report shall be approved by unanimous consent or majority vote. If the report is approved by majority vote, members voting not to approve the contents shall be given the opportunity to submit dissenting views with the report.

##### SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Upon request of the chair of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(d) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

##### SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall not be compensated for service on the Commission, except as provided under subsection (b). All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(c) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide all financial, administrative, and staff support services for the Commission.

##### SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from